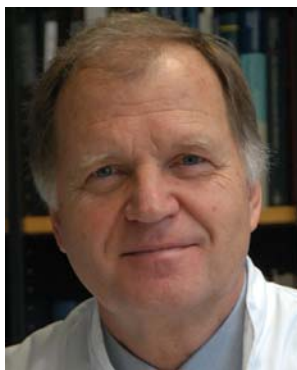


Presidential address

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Honored Members of the European Society of Neuroradiology and Participants at the 33rd Congress of our Society,

This year, with the Advanced Course and Annual Meeting of the ESNR, we are guests for the first time in a country which is among the most recent members of the European Union. This historic moment also has a typical European character – still young, thus needing form but moldable and finding its great chance in being open to and curious about new things. For Europe, as for the ESNR as one microcosmic part of Europe, this means expanding growth, but not only in numbers, but also growth in contacts, enrichment through the knowledge, experience and activity of the new partners.

Growth and size are not values per se. A Europe which cooperates in medical care and medical research is, however, the only possibility to keep up in this area. We don't differ in this in any way from the great economic global development, in which individual European countries cannot keep pace with the large American or Asian spheres of interest – to name only two such spheres.

The ESNR views itself, as it always has, as a European platform, which cooperates closely with the national neuroradiological societies to further develop the specialty

Neuroradiology. It also defines and effectively represents its interests in European politics of professionals by working with the European administration. A manifest expression of this is the recognition of a Division of Neuroradiology by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) within the Section of Radiology, which will hold its founders meeting in the 2nd week of September with the election of the National Delegates. The task of the Division of Neuroradiology will be to develop criteria for Europe-wide optimal training in Neuroradiology and to support the national institutions in creating the prerequisites for qualified training, qualified care of patients and outstanding science.

This year's Advanced Course and the Annual Meeting of the ESNR is aimed at reflecting the diversity of interests of European Neuroradiologists and for the first time has organized a parallel course of its own for Interventional Neuroradiology. The acceptance of this change will show whether this concept will be maintained in the future. The presentations on clinical neuroradiology, postgraduate training and scientific topics cover a broad spectrum, so that different interests are taken into account in these areas as well.

Apart from the medical contents, it won't be difficult to gather lasting impressions in this wonderful city of Kraków, a part of the UNESCO world culture heritage. It is the most important Polish center of education with 160,000 students, an overwhelming city-scape, which earned it the title "the Rome of Poland". 5 million tourists a year can't be wrong. Enjoy this city, which inspired Kraków's most famous student (1491 - 1494) the physician and astronomer Nicholas Copernicus, to the ideas which were later termed "Copernicus' conception of the world".

I wish you all a congress which is unforgettable scientifically, culturally and in interpersonal contacts.

Martin Schumacher
President of the ESNR